

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
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Department of Genetics
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

October 23, 1969

Department of Medical Genetics
School of Medicine

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

Dear Josh:

Have you given any thought to doing a column on the cyclamate question? There are two kinds of issues. One is that it might well have been banned on chromosome breaking and teratogenic grounds, since the compensating benefits are (I guess) nearly non-existent. A second is the extreme rigidity with which the carcinogenic criterion must be applied in view of the requirement that any substance must be banned if it is carcinogenic at any concentration in any organism. Shouldn't there be more room for judgment? Finally, you might comment on the dubious wisdom of using a food additive on such an enormous scale with so little knowledge of chronic effects. Is there any possibility of a policy that would put new compounds out in identifiable areas so that any untoward effects on the local population might have a chance of being found?

There is another issue that Sam Epstein has raised (not for a column, but for discussion). You may want to talk with him about it next week. It is the difficulty of being sure about the disinterestedness of contract researchers who test compounds for manufacturers. How can this be gotten at? Has Nelson given this any serious thought?

Much to my regret, I have gotten swamped with things to do next week and have to beg off of the meeting. I had hoped to see you there and in Washington in early November, but I gather that you won't be at the latter. Well, I'll see you one way or another I'm sure. Meanwhile, thanks for the pleasant food and conversation during my recent visit.

Sincerely,

Jim
James F. Crow

OCT 24 1969 FC/po'

Hi, Jim. I wrote 2 columns on cyclamates for 10/25/69:
No. 1 (Before the Ban) stressed Leggett's work. No. 2, which I will
send you, deals with precisely the issues you raise.

CROW

*will do:
see also
encl.*

*Too bad.
We'll miss
you.*